

THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Colonial Coin Collectors Club



Fall 1996

Volume 4 number 2

The C4 Newsletter Volume 4, number 2.

A quarterly published by
The Colonial Coin Collectors Club, Inc.

C4 National Officers:

President: Dennis Wierzba

71234.3347@compuserve.com

Treasurer: Angel Pietri

73562.3131@compuserve.com

Secretary: John Lorenzo



C4 Newsletter Editor (note new address):

Dan Freidus

email: freidus@umich.edu

Librarian:

Steve Tannenbaum

Compuserve Representative:

Bijan Anvar

73310.3303@compuserve.com

C4 Regional Representatives:

Region 1 (New England, Québec, Canadian Maritimes)
Jim Skalbe, Colonial Trading Co.

Region 2 (NY, NJ, PA, MD, DE, DC)
David Palmer

Region 3 (VA, WV, NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, LA, TN, AR, PR)
Stan Stephens

email: ses@wvnxaxa.wvnet.edu

Region 4 (OH, IN, IL, MI, WI, KY, IA, ND, SD, MN, KS, MO, NE,
Ontario, Manitoba)
Ken Mote

Region 5 (OK, TX, NM, AZ, ID, WY, CO, MT, UT, NV, Mexico)
Mary Sauvain

Region 6 (CA, HI)
Jim Goudge

Region 7 (OR, WA, BC)
Rob Retz



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The cover illustration is a revision of the C4 logo. The original was by Gary Trudgen and the revision created by Wendy Williams (Williams & Williams, Inc. Graphic Design & Multimedia [redacted]) with some input from your editor.

Editor's Notes and News***Dan Freidus***

Apologies for my delay in getting this issue out. A number of the usual factors got in my way this time: family, work, procrastination, etc. Hopefully I'll get things back on a quarterly schedule. We've got a couple of nice articles in the editing stages but there's still a need for more letters and articles. If you have ideas drop me a line or talk to me at the C4 convention.

In this issue you'll find the results of our elections this summer. I'd like to thank both the 60 or so people who voted and, most of all, the candidates for being willing to serve the club and its members. Unfortunately, "turnout" was even lower than for a U.S. presidential election. For example, the membership list easiest for me to find shows 26 members in California, but only 4 people voted in region 6 (I only know of 1 member from Hawaii, perhaps we need to go do some recruiting: any volunteers?). This list happens to be from September 1995, but for the most part it is still accurate. The exact numbers aren't important, but hopefully we'll have more participation next time.

We've had one successful convention and are about to hold what I am sure will be another great one. As this club matures, its direction and focus are up to us. Along those lines, I'm publishing a number of letters from members in this issue. Hopefully they provide some food for thought and will lead to productive discussions at our convention and also in the pages of this newsletter, especially important for those unable to attend the convention. Please make your voice heard, this is your club.

I don't where to fit in this small but wonderful tidbit. The ANS web site now has the files of the Numismatic Index Project (NIP). They will soon be adding the CNL index to

this database. NIP is an essential tool for conducting literature searches about American numismatics. It makes both your computer and numismatic library much more useful. The address is <http://www.AmNumSoc2.org>. Thank you, ANS and thank you, Harry Bass.

As usual, a reminder that C4 members may place free classified ads up to 13 lines (a third of a page). You may also include a photo with your ad at our cost (\$5). Black and white photo needed, size can be adjusted to fit. Display ads are available at the following prices:

	1 issue	2 issues	4 issues	copy size
1 page	\$50	\$75	\$125	4-1/2" x 7-1/2"
1/2 page	\$30	\$45	\$75	4-1/2" x 3-3/4"
1/4 page	\$15	\$25	\$40	3-1/2" x 1-7/8"

Please send check with ad. I can accept camera-ready copy or most computer files. For a very modest fee I can accept camera-ready text and have our print shop scan photos, resize and place into your ad.

You might think that if you got catalogs from Stack's, Bowers & Merena, and McCawley & Grellman, you'd be aware of any important colonials that make their way to the auction block. Generally you'd be right, but other auction houses do get top-notch specimens from time to time. This summer's ANA auction by Heritage included the wonderful specimen below. Just a reminder to keep your eyes open.



C4 Elections

Here are our election results. New officers were installed at the ANA convention in August. Since I've never received formal minutes of the C4 meeting at ANA, please consider this publication only the unofficial results of the election. Also, I assume that regions 7 and 8 were merged.

President: *Dennis Wierzba* (56 votes)

Treasurer: *Angel Pietri* (46 votes)
Tom Madigan (12 votes)

Secretary: *John Lorenzo* (53 votes)
(2 write-in votes for Bobby Martin)

Region 1 representative: *Jim Skalbe* (14 votes)

Region 2 representative: *David Palmer* (9 votes)
Ray Williams (8 votes)

Region 3 representative: *Stan Stephens* (8 votes)

Region 4 representative: *Ken Mote* (10 votes)

Region 5 representative: *Mary Sauvain* (2 votes)

Region 6 representative: *Jim Goudge* (4 votes)

Region 7 representative: *Rob Retz* (2 votes)

All officers addresses are inside the front cover. If you have any ideas or suggestions, especially for regional meetings, please get in touch with the appropriate club officer. If you'd like to be more involved and volunteer time, contact a regional or national officer to find out what projects are in the works.

The Second Annual C4 Convention

October 11-13, 1996.

10 am - 7 pm Friday & Saturday. 10 am - 4 pm Sunday

held in conjunction with

Middle Atlantic Numismatic Association (MANA)

at The South Jersey Expo Center

2323 Route 73, Pennsauken, New Jersey

Highlights Include:

Educational Seminars And Exhibits

Blockbuster Colonial Auction By

McCawley & Grellman (M&G) (Saturday:

Pizza at 5:30, Auction at 6:30 pm)

Auction info: Chris McCawley [REDACTED]

Lot Viewing Volunteer Coordinator:

Mike Wierzba [REDACTED]

NJ/VT/CT/MA Copper Symposium (Friday 5 - 10 pm)

RSVP Ray Williams [REDACTED]

C4 member area for socializing on the same bourse floor as
MANA Convention with 100+ additional dealers

Official Hotel: Mount Laurel Clarion

915 Rt 73 At I-295, Mt. Laurel, NJ 609-234-7300

Ask for MANA/C4 Rate of \$59, Single or Double

Rapid Rover Service from Airport under \$20 609-428-1500

C4 carpooling between Clarion and Expo Center

Volunteers needed for lot viewing, C4 table, etc.

General Chairmen: Dennis & Michael Wierzba
[REDACTED]

Bourse Chairman: Greg Ruby [REDACTED]

Education and Exhibits: Bijan Anvar [REDACTED]

C4 Reception (Thursday 7:30 pm):

RSVP Roger Moore [REDACTED]

Friday evening's State Copper Symposium at the C4 Convention promises to be wonderful. Here's what will be going on:

Connecticut Coppers (Jim Goudge, moderator)

An introduction to Connecticut coppers emphasizing

1. authorized and unauthorized mints and coiners.
2. morphology, including analysis of major and minor types, varieties and die states.
3. arrangement and classification of the coinage.
4. discussion of descriptive and analytical literature.

The following die varieties will be discussed:

1785 M. 1-E

1786 M 5.4-O.1

1787 M. 1.2-C, M. 6.2-M, M. 33.15-r.1

1788 M. 2-D

If you have specimens of any or all of these varieties you are welcome to bring them for comparison.

Vermont coppers (Tony Carlotto, moderator)

Please bring along any unusual, confusing, or particularly interesting Vermont copper.

Massachusetts coppers

Please bring interesting die states of any die variety and you favorite cherry-picked Massachusetts copper.

New Jersey coppers (Ray Williams, moderator)

Please bring any or all of the following varieties: 64-u, 65-u, 66-u. Also, any other NJ that is larger than 28.5 mm but not overstruck and not obverse dies 6, 59-67. The point of this is to study the emission sequence. If you don't know the weight and diameter, we will have balances and calipers available at the C4 table on the bourse. Please make the measurements before the symposium, if possible. Some NJ varieties sometimes found on large planchets are: 11-H, 37-f, 48-f, 49-f, 50-f, 53-j, and 78-dd. There may be others.



Message from the Outgoing President

Angel Pietri

With last issue's message I thought I had written my last one. As it turns out, I was wrong. It turns out that the new president takes over at the ANA convention. So here I am again. *(editor's note: Angel and I both expected this issue to come out just before ANA. Ha!)*

Speaking of the new president, I couldn't think of a better candidate than Dennis Wierzba. He has been active in the club over the last year and was instrumental in making the first convention a success. he is truly dedicated to the hobby. Even though a good number of people have been of great help over the last two years, nobody has provided me with as much assistance in club affairs as he. I am certain he will do a great job and I hope everyone backs him in his efforts.

In this issue, Dan is also publishing the election results. We have a good group to help Dennis out. Our thanks to all of you who agreed to accept your nominations and offer your time and energy to serve the club.

We are also gearing up for our second convention which will be held again in Pennsauken, New Jersey in conjunction with the M.A.N.A. show. Work is underway to provide a very good educational forum. In addition, it looks like we will have another blockbuster auction this year. For those of you who couldn't make it last year, start making plans for what will be the "can't miss" event in colonials for 1996. We hope to see many of you out there in October.

I would like to end by saying that it has been a very satisfying two years for me as president of C4. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and it has been a great honor for me to have served in this role. Thank you

all for this opportunity and for the cooperation many of you gave to me.

C4 Photofile: Donations to the Photofile

A duplicate set of photographs of all the plated early American coins in the Eliasberg sale has been donated to C4 by Bowers and Merena, Inc. They are now part of the club's Photofile And will be available for viewing by anyone interested at the ANA convention (at the C4 table) and at the C4 convention in October.

In addition, Bowers and Merena will make available to the club the negatives of all early American coins plated in their auctions of the last few years. We will be able to obtain prints at a very reasonable cost. The majority of the cost of this project will be covered by Bowers and Merena as a donation to C4.

Thanks to Dave Bowers and Ray Merena, as well as to Doug Plasencia of their photography department, for their contribution.

We would also like to thank Tony Terranova for donating photographs of some choice coins he has handled over the past five years. Included are some Massachusetts silver, new Jersey, Connecticut, and Vermont coppers, Fugios, a very nice large head Nova Eborac (EF+), and a choice Machin's Vlack 14-84A.

We want to photograph your coins

We are interested in photographing coins in your collection which are R-5 or rarer, or Condition Census candidates in any condition. Of course, there is no cost to you, unless you'd like prints for yourself (great for identification or insurance), in which case there is a nominal charge of \$3 per

coin. I will usually be available to photograph coins at the ANA, C4, EAC, and FUN conventions.

In case of major collections, if you prefer that I photo them in a location close to your residence, please let me know and I can try to make arrangements.

Duplicates copies of the file will be maintained in case of damage to one of the sets, one at the C4 library and one with me.



BUILDING YOUR REFERENCE LIBRARY

Bidding in one of our mail-bid sales of numismatic literature is one of the easiest and best ways to acquire needed reference material.

As a member of C4, you are eligible to receive a complimentary catalog for our next sale. Please send us your name and address so that we may add you to our mailing list.

"Knowledge is the key to enrichment!"

FRED L. LAKE - FUNCTION ASSOCIATES

6822 22nd Avenue N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33710
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FAX: (813) 381-6822

Theft of Colonial Collection

Mike Packard

Phillip Keller of Pennsylvania recently had a robbery at his home (*editor's note: I received the letter from Mike in late July*). he lost quite a lot of material including his Massachusetts copper collection (106 pieces) and an extensive collection of Pennsylvania colonial currency (741 pieces), colonial currency (261 pieces), and Pennsylvania obsolete currency and lottery tickets (424 items). He also lost other numismatic materials including a civil war token die with the inscription "Swan Hotel/Lancaster. PA." Mr. Keller has a listing of all the serial numbers of the notes that were stolen and photographs of most of the Massachusetts coppers that were stolen.

If you suspect that you have seen some of his material, please contact Mr. Keller [REDACTED], Mike Packard [REDACTED], either you local police or the Lancaster Police:

Detective Joseph Edgell
East Lampeter Township Police

[REDACTED]

Reference: "Report #96-4791"

Most of the Massachusetts coppers were purchased between 1951 and 1969 and were still in envelopes of Kelly, Kelly Auctions, and Phil Greco. Some of the more easily recognizable Massachusetts coppers include:

Half Cents:

1787: 1-D (AU); 4-D (G/F holed); 3-A (F/VF clipped); 4-B (UNC); 6-A (EF plugged)

1788: 1-B (UNC)

1787: 1-B (Indian leans forward, jaw juts out)(F); 2b-E (G/Fr
holed); 2b-G (G+, another: Fair); 4-C (EF+); 8-G (G+
corroded); {Connecticut 16.3-N overstruck on a
Mass. 1-B}

1788: 4-G (UNC); 8-C (UNC); 9-M (EF); 11-E (AU); 12-H (Fair); 12-I (UNC); 12-K (VF); 12-O (F+); 13-N (VF-EF); 15-M (EF); 16-M (EF, another: VF); 17-I (G+)



Dennis Wierzba

C4 is looking for a volunteer to keep a stolen colonial coin database. The information would be kept current and distributed to dealers and auction houses. It goes without saying that this type of service would protect the rightful owners of colonials! At a minimum, the database would contain the owner, variety, weight and a photo reference. The photo reference could be a catalog picture, a C4 library photo or the owner's photo. The person suffering the loss would have to provide sufficient photos of the coin for distribution. Please contact me if you can volunteer.



Mike Wierzba

My dad, Dennis, and I had the pleasure of organizing the colonial happening at E.A.C. We were assisted behind the tables by Neil Rothschild, Roger Moore, Ray Williams, John Griffiee and Stan Stephens. The topic this year was colonial overstrikes. Many examples were brought to the happening. There were three categories: 1. New Jersey, 2.

Connecticut, and 3. Vermont and Miscellaneous. Below are listed the coins brought to the show.

New Jersey Coppers

1. 34-J o/s on 1788 Conn. 15.2-P.
ex. Griffee L.54, Saccone L.219.
2. 56-n o/s on 1787 Conn.
3. 17-K o/s on Conn.
4. 34-J o/s on 1787 Conn.
5. 71-y o/s on 1787 Conn. ex. Griffee, Taylor, Forman
6. 56-n o/s on 1787 Conn. ex. Sheer, Sebring, Rinaldo
7. 17-b o/s on 1787 Conn.
8. 34-J o/s on 1787 Conn.
9. 35-J o/s Conn. M. 32.1-x.3
10. 40-b o/s Conn.
11. 56-n o/s 1787 Conn. 21-dd
12. 56-n o/s 1788 Conn. M.2-D
13. 56-n o/s Cft. 1/2d
14. 56-n o/s 1783 Nova
15. 56-n o/s on Conn. M. 30-x.1
16. 56-n o/s on Conn. M.24-g.3
17. 58-n o/s on 1787 Conn. M.43.1-y
18. 58-n o/s Conn.
19. 71-y o/s 1787 Conn. M.19-g.4?
20. 73-aa o/s Conn.
21. 34-J o/s Nova Eborac
22. 56-n o/s Vermont RR-13
23. 56-n o/s Conn. 33.2-z.5
24. 58-n o/s Conn. 32.1-x.3
25. 56-n o/s Bungtown
26. 56-n o/s Conn.
27. 56-n o/s on Conn. 30-hh.1
28. 56-n o/s on Conn. 30-hh.1
29. 56-n o/s on Conn. 2-A.4
30. 56-n o/s on Conn. 32.6-x.6
31. 56-n o/s on Machin Mills 1772
32. 56-n o/s on Conn.
33. 56-n o/s on Conn.

34. 73-aa o/s on Conn. 33.37-z.9
35. 17-k o/s on Conn.
36. 56-n o/s on Conn.
37. 56-n o/s on Conn.
38. 56-n o/s on 1772 G.B. 1/2d
39. 56-n o/s V.6-72A Machin Mills
40. 56-n o/s 1773 G.B. 1/2d
41. 56-n o/s Machin Mills V.23-88A
42. 56-n o/s on 1783 Nova Constellatio
43. 56-n o/s on cast counterfeit G.B. 1/2d
44. 56-n o/s on Machin Mills V.3-74A
45. 56-n o/s on Machin Mills V.6-76A
46. 56-n o/s on Machin Mills V.3-71B
47. 56-n o/s on Conn. 32.2-x.1
48. 56-n o/s on Conn. 26-a.1
49. 56-n o/s on Conn.
50. 56-n o/s on Conn.
51. 56-n o/s on Conn.
52. 56-n o/s on Vermont RR-27
53. 56-n o/s on Nova Eborac
54. 56-n o/s on a New Jersey 56-n (i.e., double struck)
55. 56-n o/s on British C'feit
56. 56-n o/s on British C'feit
57. 56-n o/s on British C'feit
58. 58-n o/s on Conn.
59. 34-J o/s on Conn.
60. 73-aa o/s Vermont

Vermont/Miscellaneous

1. G.B. 1/2d o/s on J. Palmer Middlesex 363 Mailcoach Condor. ex. Griffiee L.580
2. Vermont RR-18 o/s C'feit 1776 Irish 1/2d
3. Vermont RR-12 o/s on Nova Constellatio
4. Vermont RR-28 o/s on C'feit Irish 1/2d
5. Vermont RR-25 o/s on 1781 Irish 1/2d
6. Vermont RR-25 o/s on 1781 Irish 1/2d
7. Vermont RR-25 o/s on 1781 Irish 1/2d
8. Vermont RR-25 o/s on 1782 Irish 1/2d

9. 1772 G.B. 1/2d o/s on a Portugal C'feit
10. 1775 G.B. 1/2d o/s on Condor
11. Vermont RR-18 o/s 1782 Irish c/f 1/2d ex-Cole
12. Vermont RR-12 o/s Nova Const. with partial brockage
13. Vermont RR-25 o/s on Irish 1/2d ex. Garrett, Ellsworth
14. Vermont RR-28 o/s on Irish 1/2d ex. Taylor
15. New York Nova Eborac C.1-B o/s on Irish 1/2d

Unfortunately there was no recording of the overstruck Connecticuts from the colonial happening. It was mentioned that there were probably more New Jersey 56-n's in the room than Lincoln cents in people's pockets. That just might have been true. I would also like to thank the people who brought their coins to the happening and made it a success.



Notice of West Coast Regional Meeting

A regional meeting will be (*was?*) held at 6:30 PM on Friday, September 20, 1996 in conjunction with the Long Beach Coin and Collectibles Expo. The meeting will be held in Room 102-A.

The Expo will be held at the Long Beach Convention Center located at 100 South Pine Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802.

There will be a talk entitled "Literature for the beginning Collector" with examples of important and useful works followed by a question and answer session.

Hope to see many of you there!

Jim Goudge, regional vice-president.



508-40TH AVENUE N.E.
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Remy Bourne

NUMISMATIC LITERATURE SPECIALIST

**Announces Public Auction Sale No. 4. October 25 & 26, 1996.
Featuring the Libraries of**

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Here are just a very few highlights of the actual sale contents.

Auction Catalogs. James Conder 1855 Priced & Named sale, 13 Kolbe hardbound sales, Wayte

Raymond's Account sales with costs & consignor names, Jenks, 8 of Stack's 15 rarest sales,

Rare Priced & Named 1867 Mickley sale. **Books,** Burns, Coole, Kahn, Akers, Milne,

O. Walker, Hobler, Duruy's History of Rome, Heath Counterfeit Detectors, Complete set of

Red Books. **Fixed Price Lists,** Hess, Hesslein, Merkin and early Bowers Rare Coin Reviews.

Periodicals, Complete set of 17 Coin Topics by Raymond, Canada Coin News, Steigerwalt's Coin Journal, Brown's Curiosity Cabinet, Early Numismatist, SPMC, TAMS and much more.

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REPRINTS OF TWO CLASSICS

- ✓ W. Elliot Woodward's 1867 Mickley Catalogue, called by John W. Adams "Perhaps the greatest U. S. Collection," with prices and buyers' names.

The Mickley catalogue, never before reprinted, is now available having been made from the one priced and named example sold publicly. To correct the problem of the sometimes faint handwriting, we have transcribed the hammer prices and buyers' names to a printed prices realized list of 21 pages which is bound in after the Woodward text and have had the pencil notations airbrushed off the plates producing remarkably clean pages. The reprint is 224 pages which includes the important text on both wrappers, is slightly larger than the original at 6x9", and is well bound in blue cloth. A printing of 115 copies is offered as follows.

Blue cloth, edition of 100 \$100.00.
Half calf, raised bands, leather spine label, edition of 15 \$190.00.

- ✓ Maris' "Woodburytype" plate of state coinage with accompanying text.

The bitter jealousy toward Sylvester Crosby harbored by Dr. Edward Maris became manifest in 1875 with the publication by the latter of a supplemental plate which was designed to highlight his perceived incompleteness of *The Early Coins of America*. Depicting state coinage of Connecticut, New Jersey, and Vermont from his personal collection, Maris produced the plate and advertised it for sale @50¢. Probably no more than 20-25 examples exist today, and they are usually encountered tipped into *The Early Coins ...* at the end of the chapter covering the state coinage of New Jersey.

Several years ago we asked Quarterman's Al Hoch to reprint the plate with his charge being to duplicate exactly the size (8x10 3/4"), color (medium blackish-brown), look and feel (matte-low gloss finish) of the original. That he succeeded is evident by a letter in our files from Eric Newman, who after seeing a copy, strongly recommended that each be clearly marked as a reprint. Several New Jersey specialists in fact were unable to select the reprint when confronted with it and an original side-by-side.

The six pages of text, the product of this writer, examine the rivalry between Maris and Crosby and the several encounters which always seemed to find Maris shortchanged and somewhat humiliated. They were formatted with the intent of being inserted into the 1983 Quarterman edition of Crosby after the Newman bibliographical foreword. One hundred copies of the plate and accompanying text have been prepared and are available at \$43 postpaid.

Charles Davis

P.O. Box 547
Wenham, MA 01984

Letters from members

Congrats on a nice issue. Vol. 4, No. 1 (Spring, 1996) was a good read.

Regarding calipers for measuring coins, I second your warning, collectors should NEVER use steel calipers. Even if the calipers don't slip and inadvertently scratch a coin's surface, the simple act of tightening the teeth against a coin's surface (or edge) will always leave some mark behind. Remember, steel is harder than any of our common coinage metals.

I use a Swiss pair of calipers made from a mix of plastic with 60% fibreglass. They're equipped with an automatic dial type vernier scale that yields accurate and reproducible readings to 0.1 mm. I don't know anyone who uses inch measurements.

When measuring a coin's thickness, I always take multiple readings along different parts of the coin's edge, recording each one. I avoid the struck areas of the coin. When doing diameters, I record the north-south axis measurement first, then the east-west one. Interestingly, CT coppers are most often wider along their east-west axis, while VT's are the exact opposite. When one has a large number of diameter measurements for specimens of a variety, one can often detect one or more diameter ranges. These, taken together with weight and axis measurement, can often suggest a different source of planchet stock, two or more different emissions, or even an entirely different mint.

Your article on the Betts creations was enjoyable. When I found the Betts dies you mentioned I was extremely surprised, since I thought they had been destroyed in the 1960s. It was fun cataloguing them for Stack's sale. Since I was then embroiled in the sort of editorial controversy that

Scott and Frossard had waged, I felt a sense of kinship with their troubles, which is why I went into such detail about the matter in the introduction I wrote for the Betts pieces.

Incidentally, I noted your reference to Dick Doty's COAC paper on minting technology in the 1652-84 Massachusetts mint. Just to set the record straight, Dick borrowed the idea from what I had written in many catalogue descriptions of Mass silver I had done for Dave Bowers. Dick called and asked if I'd mind if he did his COAC paper on the subject. Naturally, I said not at all.

My current opinion about rocker and roller presses at the Boston Mint has changed in the past 5 years. I've seen a lot more coins since then! I now believe that the Willows were made on rocker presses, whose reciprocating action would account for the apparent double and triple striking we see on these. I think a roller press was used for some large planchet Pine shillings and sixpences, but not all of them. Noe 33 was definitely done on a roller press, with the dies misaligned. The NE issues were hand stamped, as everyone agrees. The Oak's were done on roller and screw presses. The small flan Pine shillings, some large ones, some 6d's and 3d's, were also done on a screw press.

I no longer accept the old typology of NE to Willow to Oak to Pine. Instead, I suspect that Oaks and Pines were being made at the same time on different machines, a screw press and a roller press (and just maybe, a rocker press, too) all being available for use as wanted. All were made on strips of silver, the coins being cut out from the strips after they were struck. The cut out coins were then weighed and their weights adjusted by clipping along the edges, sometimes in ornamental ways! NE shillings were made on round blanks cut from strip by a cookie-cutter kind of planchet cutter. NE's might have been made at the same time that Willows were, maybe even when Oaks and Pines were, too. Some

I've seen look very sophisticated! Some day I'll do a monograph on the MA silver series.

Mike Hodder



I thoroughly enjoyed the last issue of The C4 Newsletter, particularly Dave Bowers' discussion of his experience with the Eliasberg colonials.

In the back pages of the Newsletter I noticed a small advertisement by an individual interested in purchasing coins and the accompanying certificates of authenticity from the "Colonial American Coin Club." The ad was of particular interest to me because the first colonial coins I purchased were through the "Club." They were consigned with my other colonials and type coins to the Bowers and Merena auction of March 21-23.

The Colonial American Coin Club was a division of First Coinvestors, Inc. located on Long Island. Headed by Stanley Apfelbaum, a high-powered entrepreneur, First Coinvestors was founded in 1968 and during the 1970s was a significant presence in the coin market. In early 1975, F.C.I. ran full page ads in Coin World announcing the formation of the Colonial American Coin Club, which "only 1,000 members would be privileged to join."

Apfelbaum had been successful in assembling a stable of prominent numismatists and several of them were associated with the Club, which was essentially a numismatic portfolio operation. Overseeing it was Walter Breen, who Apfelbaum announced had been assigned to "an exclusive lifetime contract." The first Director of the Club was Don Taxay, best known as an author. His books included the "Scott Comprehensive Catalogue and Encyclopedia of U.S. Coins" and "Counterfeit, Mis-struck and Unofficial U.S.

Coins." In 1978 he authored an excellent column "Collecting Colonials" in *Coin World*. He seems later to have just disappeared from the numismatic scene – a great loss. Taxay left F.C.I in late 1975 and was succeeded by Frederick "Fritz" Weber who was best known as an expert on colonial paper money. Also associated with the Club was Sylvia Hafner, well known in her own right.

At the time I had been assembling for some years an early U.S. type set as the pressures of business and raising a family permitted. I hadn't been collecting colonials. Intrigued by the F.C.I. ad, I joined the Club, indicating the amount of money I was willing to spend every month (about \$100-150). I began to put together a type set of colonials, ranging from very fine to extremely fine condition. (Looking back I obviously should have purchased fewer coins in choicer condition.)

Each coin came with a small certificate of authenticity signed by Walter Breen and in some cases also by Don Taxay. The turning point in my membership came when I requested that I be sent "a really nice Connecticut cent." In response I received a condition census Miller 33.28-Z.16 Snipe Nose! It was priced at several times what I had been paying for my other colonials, but I had to have it. It was about that time I realized that I should try to complete my colonial type set with choicer coins and the best method of doing that was to obtain them at auction. My later purchases, as I could afford them, were from auctions such as the Fleischer, Picker, and Garrett sales. I've always had a warm feeling for the Colonial American Coin Club because it started me in the most fascinating part of my collecting career. Incidentally, while my colonials are now in the hands of other collectors I still have my extensive library on the subject and continue to have a strong interest in these historic artifacts. I've found that you don't have to own the coins to enjoy them.

Regards, Tom Sebring.



I would like to propose some thoughts regarding the role of C4 for the future. Namely, should C4 develop a long range planning process so that a game plan can be developed and used as a guide in all C4 activities? In other words, a documented and published plan to be used as a guide to permit C4 to carry out the purpose of C4 as noted in the bylaws thus best serving its membership.

The Bylaws indicate that the purpose of C4 is to provide a forum for fellowship and exchange of information for colonial coin enthusiasts. Our capable officers from the beginning of the organization have been developing a series of actions to carry out the purpose of C4 such as the newsletter, a yearly auction, and more. These are great and should continue but should we go one step further and develop a long range plan (3 years) that addresses a full spectrum of needs of the membership? It would help answer the following questions: What should the newsletter contain and how often should it be published? Should it address material similar to the Colonial Newsletter and other publications? Is the newsletter timely?

Who are the C4 members? Some basic but significant differences in membership composition presently exist. Many members are extremely knowledgeable in the diverse world of colonials. They are dealers and long-time collectors, have written most of what is known today about colonials, etc. On the other hand, many of us are struggling to upgrade our limited knowledge of this almost mystical and certainly challenging arena of numismatics. To fulfill our personal goal, most of us would like to put together a collection of quality colonials at a reasonable price. How can C4 help us?

Most dealers and long-time collectors of colonials already belong to C4. Thus, the only direction for growth of

membership would be from those who may become enamored with one or more areas of colonials. They will demand membership in order to expand their database of basic knowledge of their specialty. The success of C4 into the future will be dependent on how well it can supply such needed information as well as stimulate interest in colonials.

I would like to point out an interesting happening that I noted several days ago. A specific lot in an upcoming auction was claimed to be Small Military Bust, plain edge. My review of the accompanying photo would suggest that this is a Vlack 8e which would put it into the Large Military Bust category. A substantial difference if one is collecting type coins. Should we be alerting members 1) that there is an auction containing a number of colonials 2) that there may be a lot that is inaccurately attributed 3) of other pertinent information which may be of interest to the novice collector regarding this or other auctions? Can it be done without generating liability? Can it be put into the Newsletter in time for everyone to know such information? Has the club considered an email alert system? Such an alert could be carried out by the editor or other designated C4 officer. It would be his responsibility to control what educational information is sent out. Would an email "reflector" be easier and have less liability or would it simply be a nuisance?

I suggest that many members would find great benefit in being made aware of timely happenings. Fresh information could provide the member the opportunity to take certain actions when so desired. This could generate more activity in auctions, expand our knowledge base as well as encourage those wishing such data to become members. It would certainly promote colonials by being a continuing reminder of our fascination for colonials. I can also think of some negatives such as forgetting to announce an auction or not wishing to promote a certain dealer's auction, etc. but

The above ideas are probably just a few of many possible ways to implement our stated purpose. Perhaps a questionnaire covering a number of options would be one way to determine if we need to expand or redirect our efforts as an organization.

After all this is stated, I just want to thank both of you (Angel and Dan) as well as all the officers for your commitment and energy to see that C4 meets the needs of the present and the challenges of the future.

(editor's response: Thanks for the pat on the back, Don. Some nice ideas, but expanding the activities of C4 cannot happen just by action of the officers. This all happens in our spare [Ha!] time. Expanded programs can happen when the number of active C4 members expands. It's not that I am against doing more, only that I am trying to be realistic. Remember that you don't have to run for office to volunteer time to C4. Contact your regional rep, or the convention coordinator, librarian, editor, president, etc. to volunteer your time and skills. For example, I have had tendonitis in my wrists and would welcome a volunteer to type letters and/or articles. Anyone who has Mac or PC could help out.)



At 9 AM on June 22, the Region 2 meeting was held at the GSNA Convention in Pennsauken, NJ. This is the same location the C4 Convention was held at last year and the same site we'll be at this year. Dennis Wierzba chaired the regional meeting.

Some discussion of consignments to the upcoming C4 auction left us all anxious for October to get here. An announcement was made that Jeff Rock had pled guilty in

Connecticut State Court to felony larceny for the theft of a Higley copper. (editor's note: This is the Higley which Rock was offering for sale at the 1994 ANA Convention in Detroit and the 1995 EAC Convention near Cincinnati (i.e. Kentucky). It was at the EAC meeting that Jeff first showed me the coin, which I recognized as the property of the Connecticut State Library, having photographed the same coin in the Library about 9 years earlier.) A friend of Roger Moore and surprise guest, Tom Hurley, had stopped in to see us. He brought with him a piece of laboratory equipment which would give an analysis of a metal and through non-destructive means, show the percentage of different metals in the alloy being tested. (editor's note: from Ray's description, I assume this was an XRF machine. X-ray fluorescence analysis is based on the fact that, when irradiated with x-rays, each element emits radiation[i.e. fluoresces] with a characteristic wavelength [analogous to different colors of light]. Thus, by irradiating a coin with an x-ray source, similar to that of a dental x-ray machine, and then measuring the intensity of the resulting fluorescence at various wavelengths one can determine the relative proportions of various metals in a coin.) An example, a NJ Maris 64-u, gave readings indicating 98.73% copper, 0.65% tin, 0.41% bismuth, 0.1% cobalt, 0.07% iron, and 0.03% molybdenum.

Although this machine reads the surface of the coin and can pick up signals from contaminants and corrosion on the coin, there may be use for this information in determining the source of planchets used for state coinages. The meeting ended with members testing coins they had with them.

Ray Williams

P.S. At the GSNA Convention, I had two exhibits. I won second prize for my exhibit titled "A NJ Copper by any other name..." It consisted of 20 different NJ varieties, each described by Maris number, rarity, pedigree, and traditional name (e.g. coulterless, Plurirus, etc.). My second exhibit was titled "To slab or not to slab, that is the question (for colonial

coins)." Enclosed are copies of the exhibit contents (*editor's note: a photo of a PCGS slab describing the coin it entombs as "1787 NJERSY/VF20/SM PLAN PLAINSHLD /506.20/4439698" and a photocopy of the Bowers & Merena description of the same coin, sold as lot 1378 of the Spring Quartette Sale, including die variety, rarity, grade, condition census status (M42-c, R-6, F-15-VF-20, high in the CC) and going on to include weight, color surfaces, comparison to other notable specimens either auctioned or in institutional collections, and a provenance of this specimen. Ray also included a brief commentary: "To make an intelligent decision when purchasing or selling colonial coins, you need to know more than the date and the technical grade of the coin. Purchasing a colonial coin without knowing the die variety and rarity would be the equivalent of purchasing a 1909 Lincoln cent without knowing if there was an S or a V.D.B. on the coin. In my opinion, there is no advantage to slabbing colonial coins."*) along with a copy of a vote for this exhibit which was in the People's Choice Ballot Box. ("Worst Exhibit Write In Ballot: The colonial collector who is bashing PCGS. Just another copper collector who is pissed off that somebody else is trying to break up the status quo that the copper dealers perpetuate on the unsuspecting public.") Although I fail to understand this individual's objection to any statements I made in this exhibit, I will frame this ballot and cherish it for years to come. Tom Rinaldo was amused by the ballot and said it might be appreciated by other C4 members.



I was not sure who I could write to or if there is a section of The C4 Newsletter for persons to request help attributing various coppers.

I have been trying to identify this Connecticut 1787 copper but it is not described in Breen's U.S. Encyclopedia. It is a draped bust variety, single fleurons obverse. The reverse has some double and single fleurons, one scroll. All fleurons are small. It appears to be "ET LIB" with a break at the

bottom of the "B". The "E" in "ET LIB" has odd serifs. This copper may be Breen #813 or 815 (only one scroll is visible). Similar to 818 but not all fleurons are paired on reverse. Any help you could give me will be greatly appreciated.

Dan Burleson

(editor's note: Breen didn't attempt to describe all die varieties of Connecticut coppers. For this Miller's "The State Coinage of Connecticut" is the standard reference though the illustrations are of low enough quality that most people also use a copy of either the Pine Tree 1975 EAC auction or Bowers & Merena's 1987 Taylor auction catalog. But none of these are actually guides to die attribution. Most numismatic attribution reference works are no more than lists of varieties. They are a far cry from tools such as the dichotomous keys used to identify biological species. Such a key is a series of questions which lead you down the different forks in a tree. At the end of each "branch" would be a die variety. Although the tradition in biology is that each question is worded so that it has only 2 possible answers, that restriction isn't inherent to the method. One could take the punctuation and ornamentation table in Miller in use it to create a series of questions to use to determine types for Connecticut. The big problem would be how to make the key redundant enough to allow one to attribute a coin even when some diagnostic features are missing. Most people have some process for figuring out die varieties that involves asking some questions of themselves, though usually not explicitly (e.g. is some diagnostic die break present, what is the date, etc.)

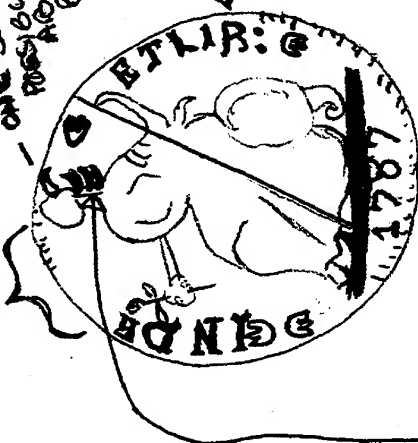
I invite members to write letters or articles describing how they actually attribute colonials. Of course, using this case as an example will help Mr. Burleson as well as educate a broader audience about the exciting and sometimes frustrating task of attributing coins by die variety. On the next page is Mr. Burleson's drawing and description of his Connecticut copper.)



IF THERE ARE
FLUOROS OR CLOUDS IN THIS AREA
WEAK STUCK POINT
CANNOT TELL

ONE SCROLL CLEARLY VISIBLE
RESPECT PART OF SECOND SCROLL
ABOVE THIS SCROLL MARK AT
BUT ONLY SMALL MARK AT
WEST EDGE OF PLATE

APPEARS TO BE A "B"
BUT THE BOTTOM HALF
OF B IS NOT COMPLETE
"B"
BANK



TOP OF B COVERED BY LINE

3 GROUPS OF UPWARD CURVED LINES
3 or 4 LINES PER GROUP



WEAK
STUCK
AREA
"A" NOT PRESENT
ONLY PARTIAL

ANS to publish "The Colonial Newsletter"

The biggest colonial news this summer was the donation of The Colonial Newsletter to the ANS. The Colonial Newsletter has been mostly a one person operation and Jim Spilman was looking for a way for CNL to continue as he looks to retire from his editorial position. The Colonial Newsletter Foundation will continue to exist for now, only the publication has been donated so far.

Philip Mossman will be the new editor, assisted by Gary Trudgen and Michael Hodder. The first issue of CNL published by the ANS will come out in April 1997.

The ANS will offer CNL subscriptions without ANS memberships, though my advice is to support the ANS by becoming a member. They are the preeminent institution sponsoring numismatic research and publication in the U.S. (no offense meant to the ANA, it simply has a different mission).

The ANS will publish at least 3 issues per year during 1997-1999. The ANS will also consider forming a "Special Interest Group" (SIG) focusing on "early American coins and paper money before 1793."

The most important part of this donation is delayed a bit. If, at the end of 3 years, the ANS decides that they will continue to publish CNL, the CNL Foundation will also donate its numismatic collection and library to the ANS.

While the publication has a wonderful reputation, I believe that the Barnsley collection should be made available to scholars, together with other holdings of the CNLF. Currently all that is available is a limited printout of the collection database. Physical access to the collection is not allowed, even for "patrons" of CNLF. It now appears that the collection is likely to become accessible in a few years.

Hopefully the ANS will have funds available for cataloging and curation of the collection. Some C4 members wondered why CNL didn't merge with C4. Personally, I think the field is better served by having 2 publications, each with its own character. As for the numismatic collections, C4 doesn't have a physical location, professional staff, or funding to curate such a collection. Not only does the ANS have a professional curatorial staff, but they also have the infrastructure and administrative staff that make curatorial work possible. Whether it is access to funding from the Institute for Museum Services or coordinating publication with a printer in Germany, the ANS has the broad range of resources necessary to house and catalog a collection while also providing access to scholars. I haven't even mentioned the ANS' library, whose collection and staff make it the finest place to conduct numismatic research.

I haven't done much to hide the fact that I am a fan of museums in general and of the ANS in particular. The addition of CNL and the impending addition of the CNLF numismatic collection can only strengthen the ANS and increase its dedication to early American numismatics.



UNCLASSIFIED ADS

Walter Deleu, [REDACTED]

I'm interested in purchasing coins or early American currency accompanied by a certificate of authenticity from the "Colonial American Coin Club." These have a photo attached and are usually signed by Walter Breen and/or Don Taxay, etc. Also send any lists of your duplicates for sale with prices/terms.



TOP GRADE SPECIMENS of the following wanted:

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Nice rarity 7 Connecticut

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call toll free any time: 800-COINS-99



James H. Goudge,



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1786 New Jersey M. 16-L. VF, light brown with slightly mottled surfaces. 150

1787 New Jersey M. 56-n. Camel's head, struck over a Connecticut, undertype not attributed, nice brown VF 495

The Coins of New Jersey, Maris, Quarterman reprint VF 95

The Early Coins of America, Crosby, Burt Franklin reprint, VF. 25

Money of the American Colonies and Confederation, Mossman, as new. 90

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